Disbanding Rashtriya Rifles

50. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the mandate of the Rashtriya Rifles ended on August 22, 1997, but in the absence of orders for its extension beyond that date, Rashtriya Rifles continued its operations well after this date, and

(b) whether its mandate has since been extended, if so, to what extent and the reasons for delay in issuing proper notification?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) It is wrong to say that mandate for the Rashtriya Rifles has ended on August 22, 1997. Rashtriya Rifles was raised in 1990 and the sanction issued at that time is still valid. It is only the additional units which were raised in 1994 for a period of 3 years that require extension of their period of sanction. This does not mean that the mandate of RR as a force has expired.

Unprovoked Artillery Firing by Pakistan in Kargil Sector

51. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after a brief lull for a week or so, Pakistani again resorted to unprovoked artillery and other fire on Wednesday September 3, 1997 in the Kargil sector of J & K, killing at least 4 soldiers and civilians on the Indian side; and

(b) ff so, the number and details of such incidents and the persons killed during the recent exchanges of fire during the last six months, across the borders and line of control?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Pakistan resorted to unprovoked artillery and mortar fire on 3rd September 1997 in which seven Other Ranks were wounded.

(b) A statement showing details of incidents of firing and casualties on the Indo-pak border during the last six months is given at Statement.

Statement

Details of Firing and Casualty at the Indo-Pak Border during the last Six Months

Sector	No. of incidents	K Army	W Army	BSF K	BSF W	Civilians K	Civilians W
Siachcn Glecier	171	2	21			—	—
LOC	1618	11	44	—	3	24	35
IB	147	—	11	—	4	K	15
Total	1936	13	76	—	7	32	50

K : Kiled

W : Wounded

LOC : Line of Control

IB : International Border